



Retirement

LTC Embe Kugler, HQ STARC, ret 31 May 01

CW4 Randy Bonderman, HHC 1/285th Avn, TERA eff 30 Apr 01

CW4 George Pantelis, HHC 1/285th Avn, ret 31 May 01

MSG James Gawne, Det 4 STARC, ret 31 Jul 01

Msgt Barbara Klinger, HRO, ret 31 Mar 01

SFC Jose Alcorta, HHB 2/180th FA, ret 31 May 01

SFC David Dehoag, 2222nd TC, ret 30 Apr 01

SFC David Deihl, HHS 2/180th FA, ret 31 May 01

SSG Phillip Cartwright, Svc Btry 1/180th FA, ret 31 Jul 01

SSG Ralph Coppock, B Btry 1/180th FA, ret 31 Jul 01

RESIGNATIONS

CW4 Scott Howard, WAATS, eff 12 Mar 01 (IST to AL)

SFC Jessie Bernal, HHC 1/285th, eff 5 May 01

DFAS/LES UPDATE

The EOM LESs for February are in and will be forwarded to the PACs ASAP.

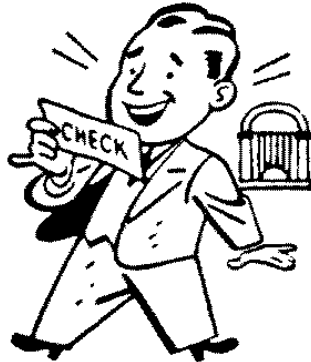
The AGR Office is now receiving the DFAS LES file and we are able to print LESs on or about the 27th of each month. If anyone is missing their LES please call this office directly from now on. We

cannot make changes directly to DFAS but can print an LES as long as it has been forwarded from DFAS.

If you are missing your W-2 for this tax year please call toll free 1-888-PAY-ARMY (1-888-729-2769) after the 5th of February.

Here's a site for W-4 forms, most current and many more....

http://www.irs.gov/forms_pubs/index.html



TRICARE NEWS RELEASES!!!!

With passage of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for 2001, TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) is planning to implement a new benefit, TRICARE Prime Remote for Family Members.

Beginning Oct. 1, 2001, active duty family members who reside with their TRICARE Prime Remote (TPR) eligible sponsors in remote locations will be eligible to enroll in TRICARE Prime Remote for Family Members. Locations designated as TRICARE Prime Remote are generally more than 50 miles in distance or a one-hour drive time from a military medical treatment facility or clinic.

The 2001 Defense Authorization Act also eliminates cost shares and deductibles for active duty family members who accompany their sponsors on a remote assignment. "While details for enrolling in the new program are still in the

development stages, there is a 'waive charges' clause which will provide interim relief to active duty family members who reside with their TRICARE Prime Remote eligible active duty sponsor," said Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Robert Styron, TRICARE Prime Remote regional operations officer, TMA. "Active duty family members living in remote locations with their TRICARE Prime Remote eligible sponsors will be eligible to have their cost shares and deductibles waived for one year until the TRICARE Prime Remote program for Family Members is implemented.

Sponsors and family members are encouraged to keep track of all fees paid from Oct. 30, 2000, (the day the President signed the NDAA into law) forward, in order to apply for reimbursement once the program details are finalized," said Styron.

Starting Oct. 1, 2001, enrollment in TRICARE Prime Remote for Family Members will be optional for active duty family members who reside with their sponsors in designated remote locations. You can verify your sponsor's TPR eligibility on the TRICARE Prime Remote Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/remote>

Previously, the only option available to family members living in these areas was to seek care with authorized civilian providers using the TRICARE Standard benefit. Consequently, sponsors with family members residing in remote locations paid more for health care than sponsors with family members living on or near military installations.

Under TRICARE Prime Remote for Family Members, eligible active duty family members choosing to enroll will enjoy a TRICARE Prime-like benefit. The TRICARE Prime access standards, cost shares and other benefits will apply. Family members will also be required to use TRICARE authorized providers. Active duty family members residing with their TPR eligible sponsors in remote

locations who choose not to enroll in TRICARE Prime Remote for Family Members can continue using the TRICARE Standard benefit according to Lt. Cmdr. Styron. Active duty family members often told him: "My sponsor and I were assigned where there is no military health care available except TRICARE Standard, which costs me money. If we were assigned to a military installation or lived within close proximity to an MTF, we could get all of our healthcare for free." This new program corrects that inequity. The TRICARE Prime Remote for Family Members affects approximately 137,000 Uniformed Services active duty family members. The active duty sponsors include military recruiters, Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) instructors and their staffs, educational instructors on permanent duty assignments and any other active duty personnel on permanent duty assignments as designated by the Secretary of Defense.

Active duty sponsors are encouraged to contact the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) to verify that information for themselves and their family members is correct. Eligibility for TRICARE Prime remote for Family Members will be based on DEERS data. Sponsors may call DEERS personnel at the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office toll-free at 1-800-538-9552. Sponsors and family members can also update their addresses for DEERS on the Military Health System /TRICARE Web site at <https://www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERSAddress/>

Additional information on the TRICARE Prime Remote benefit for active duty family members, and the waive charges clause is available on the TRICARE Prime Remote Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/remote>

Please note there are two new toll free numbers out there to facilitate TRICARE questions. They are 1-877-DoD MEDS (1-877-363-6337) which answers questions on the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program, and 1-888-DoD CARE (1-888-363-2273) which addresses issues concerning the

TRICARE Prime Remote Program.

The 2001 National Defense authorization Act (NDAA) contains great news for active duty uniformed services members and their families. One provision that's sure to please is the elimination of co-payments for active duty family members (ADFM) enrolled in TRICARE Prime.

Active duty family members enrolled in TRICARE Prime will no longer have to make co-payments for the care they receive from their civilian providers. Currently, family members of active duty members in pay grades E-1 to E-4 and pay grades E-5 and above pay \$6 and \$12, respectively, for such visits. In addition, family members' \$11 per day civilian inpatient charge is being eliminated, as is the \$11.45 per day family member rate for enrollees admitted to a military treatment facility. It is anticipated that this benefit will become available in April 2001.

Legislation included in the 2001 NDAA, such as the elimination of co-payments, is giving recruiters something to cheer about. As an employee benefit, TRICARE is quickly becoming what military leaders hoped it would: The world's best health care for the world's best military.

Active duty family members will still have to make pharmacy co-payments for the National Mail Order Pharmacy program and at network retail stores, but these charges are nominal. In addition, military treatment facilities continue to provide prescription drugs free of charge - a huge cost saving available to all uniformed services beneficiaries.

In order to obtain the elimination of co-payments for care received from their civilian providers TRICARE Prime enrollees must follow TRICARE Prime rules. For example, TRICARE Prime enrollees must normally obtain authorization from their primary care manager before seeking care from civilian providers. While they retain the right to seek civilian care without authorization from their primary care manager, the TRICARE

Prime point-of-service charges will apply. Family members who use the point-of-service option are responsible for paying the annual deductible of \$300 per member or \$600 per family, and 50 percent of the TRICARE allowable charge once the deductible is met. Family members also are responsible for any additional charges billed by the non-network provider, up to 15 percent above the TRICARE allowable charge (balance billing rule). Members are encouraged to consult with a health benefits adviser (HBA) or beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinator (BCAC) prior to using the point-of-service option.

The elimination of co-payments for active duty family members who see civilian providers is not only about cost. It's also about making the TRICARE benefit equal for those who see civilian versus military providers. In response to feedback from beneficiaries, TRICARE Prime is being re-designed to take the irritants out of the program. Cost is a big concern for beneficiaries, and the elimination of co-payments for active duty family members enrolled in Prime is a plus for customer satisfaction.



TRICARE DENTAL PROGRAM

Effective February 1, 2001 all inquiries concerning enrollment in the TRICARE Dental Program are to be referred to United Concordia Companies Incorporated (UCCI) at 1-888-622-2256. Dental issues not involving enrollment should be addressed to United Concordia's website at WWW.UCCI.COM or at 1-800-866-8499. All dental error resolution issues under this new program

should be directed to UCCI. When UCCI encounters a DEER/RAPIDS enrollment inconsistency, they will direct the soldier to visit their local RAPIDS site to correct DEERS.

Every effort should be made to assist the soldier. If the RAPIDS site representative is unable to correct the problem through DEERS/RAPIDS, they (not the soldier) can contact the DEERS/RAPIDS Project Office at telephone number: (703) 325-9590/4529/4525/8941 or DSN:221-9590/4529/4525/8941 or Email: Mr. Jackson: jacksoe0@hoffman.army.mil - Mrs. Hines: hinesj@hoffman.army.mil.

Based upon coverage and coverage cancellation error inquiries previously received by this office, the majority of the problems exist in the soldiers and dependents information in DEERS. Prior to enrolling in the TRICARE Dental Program, soldiers should verify all information pertaining them and their family members with their local RAPIDS site. Listed below are items to focus on to reduce the possibility of dental coverage being cancelled:

*Ensure the same name that appears on the LES is the same name that appears in DEERS/RAPIDS.

*Renew ID cards prior to expiration date.

*Remember the key word in DEERS concerning dental coverage is eligibility. Dental coverage for dependents will depend upon their eligibility in DEERS.

*Dependent children are eligible for dental coverage until the age of 21, unless they are full time students in which case they are eligible until age 23 or graduation whichever comes first.

*Terminate dependent child entitlements under sponsor if dependent child joins the Armed Forces or gets married.

*Ensure soldiers service record information is accurate in DEERS.

*Thirty days prior to separation date, dental coverage may cancel. A soldier who is scheduled to ETS and suddenly decides to reenlist or extend needs to be

mindful that the late action may be too late and dental coverage for their dependent(s) may cancel.

*Ensure reenlistment/extension information is confirmed in DEERS as soon as possible.

*Soldiers who have court orders concerning dependency, divorce or custody, need to ensure this information is reflected where necessary in DEERS.

*Ensure dual military spouses are not carried under each others name for entitlements.

*Ensure both dual military spouses are not paying for dental coverage on the same dependents.

As a reminder, please encourage soldiers to direct their attention to their monthly Leaves and Earnings Statement (LES) to ensure that the allotment and/or deduction amounts for dental are accurate. Also, note that the payment for TRICARE dental will be reflected under the Allotments column on the LES.

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DOD WEBSITES

For defense information and news releases visit the DOD websites listed below:

Subscribe or unsubscribe:
<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/subscribe.html>

News releases on the web:
<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/releases.html>

Department of Defense home page:
<http://www.defenselink.mil/>

<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/DailySummary.html>

USEFUL WEBSITES

For more information on United Concordia Dental Care visit their website at:

<http://www.ucci.com>

Having problems finding a provider for your dependants. Check out the TRIWEST website at:

<http://www.triwest.com>

LAFB Locator (photo lab, commissary, etc.), also the site for medical and dental appointments and phone numbers:

http://www.enlisted.com/be/AZ_LUK E AFB /AZ LUKE AFB .shtml

Interested in a Title 10 position at National Guard Bureau. Look for the latest ARNG Title 10 AGR information on the NGB home page at:

<http://www.arng.ngb.army.mil>

**Click on the T under quick search and look for Title 10 positions and T-10 application procedures.

NEW SGLV COVERAGE EFFECTIVE 1 APRIL 2001

Service members Group Life Insurance (SGLI), will automatically increase to \$250,000 effective April 1, 2001. Current premium payment of \$.80 per \$ 10,000 of coverage will continue, resulting in an additional \$4.00 premium being withheld from each member's pay for SGLI. As an example, for those members who currently have the maximum coverage amount of \$200,000, the premium payment per month is \$16.00. With the increase in coverage, the premium will now be \$20.00 per month for the maximum coverage. A remark

will appear on the February 2001 Leave and Earnings Statement (LES), advising of this rate increase.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IT IS VERY IMPORTANT:

If a member desires the full increased coverage (\$250,000), no action is necessary. However, if any member desires a reduced amount of coverage, or no coverage, that member must prepare a new VA SGLV 8286, indicating the desired amount of coverage, or no coverage. This form, to elect a reduced amount of coverage, or no coverage, must be prepared, signed, dated, and submitted **no earlier than April 1, 2001 and no later than April 30, 2001.** Any requests for reduced coverage, or no coverage, received during this period will result in a refund of any over-collection of the premium in the month of April. The April 1 to April 30, 2001 time frame is critical. Requests for reduced SGLI coverage, or no SGLI coverage dated and received after April 30, 2001 will be processed to reduce the coverage, or stop the coverage, effective in May 2001, but will not result in a refund of the maximum premium withheld for the month of April 2001.

Questions regarding SGLI should be directed to your personnel office. Request widest dissemination of this information to all active component and active guard and reserve members of your command.

NASCAR DRIVER VS US ARMY SOLDIERS

On 18 February 2001, while racing for fame and fortune, Dale Earnhardt died in the last lap of the Daytona 500. It was surely a tragedy for his family, friends and fans. He was 49 years old with grown children, one, which was in the race. I am new to the NASCAR culture so much of what I know has come from the newspaper and TV. He was a winner and earned everything he had. This included more than "\$41 million in winnings and ten times that from endorsements and souvenir sales". He had a beautiful home and a private jet. He drove the most

sophisticated cars allowed and every part was inspected and replaced as soon as there was any evidence of wear. This is normally fully funded by the car and team sponsors. Today, there is no TV station that does not constantly remind us of his tragic end and the radio already has a song of tribute to this winning driver. Nothing should be taken away from this man, he was a professional and the best in his profession. He was in a very dangerous business but the rewards were great.

Two weeks ago seven U.S. Army soldiers died in a training accident when two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters collided during night maneuvers in Hawaii. The soldiers were all in their twenties, pilots, crewchiefs and infantrymen. Most of them lived in sub-standard housing. If you add their actual duty hours (in the field, deployed) they probably earn something close to minimum wage. The aircraft they were in were between 15 and 20 years old. Many times parts were not available to keep them in good shape due to funding. They were involved in the extremely dangerous business of flying in the Kuhuku mountains at night. It only gets worse when the weather moves in as it did that night. Most times no one is there with a yellow or red flag to slow things down when it gets critical. Their children were mostly toddlers who will lose all memory of who "Daddy" was as they grow up. They died training to defend our freedom.

I take nothing away from Dale Earnhardt but ask you to perform this simple test. Ask any of your friends if they know who was the NASCAR driver killed on 18 February 2001. Then ask them if they can name one of the seven soldiers who died in Hawaii two weeks ago.

18 February 2001, Dale Earnhardt died driving for fame and glory at the Daytona 500. The nation mourns. Seven soldiers died training to protect our freedom. No one can remember their names and most don't even remember the incident.

George McGee
GEORGE R. MCGEE
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AGR OFFICE PHONE LISTING

Our office symbol is AZAA-HR-A

COL Richard Palmatier,
AGR Manager at 602-267-2485
SFC Judy Carlson
AGR Personnel SGT at 602-267-2948
MSG Pauline F. Gonzalez
Military Personnel Spec 602-267-2453



AGR HANDBOOK

If you are new to the AGR program or been around a while there is a lot of valuable information in the AGR Handbook, and it is available by email or it can be downloaded from the HRO website at <http://www.azng.com/hro>



March 17th 2001

